

Santa Barbara City Council Subcommittee on Homelessness and Community Relations
April 28, 2011
2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Franklin Center
1136 E. Montecito Street
Santa Barbara, CA
Minutes

Council Members Present: Helene Schneider, Dale Francisco (Chair), Bendy White

Staff Present: Jim Armstrong, Steve Wiley, Brian Bosse, Nancy Rapp, Capt. Alex Altavilla, Sue Gray, Deirdre Randolph

Stakeholders Present: Alan Bleecker (Milpas Community Association), Mike Foley (Casa Esperanza), Deborah Schwartz (Planning Commission), Bill Collyer (Downtown Organization)

1. OPENING COMMENTS: Dale Francisco

The subcommittee needs to decide: Where do we go from here? What are the most important topics that need focus and further action?

2. UPDATE ON STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS COMMUNITY ISSUES RELATED TO HOMELESSNESS – Sue Gray

The update reflects that there have been numerous accomplishments in the last two years. The updated strategies report was re-formatted to address strategies in the order of Prevention / Intervention / Enforcement

A brief update of each strategy was presented by Sue Gray and then discussed by the group. The full text of the document is available on the City's web site:

http://www.santabarbaraca.gov/Government/Other_Committees/Homelessness_and_Community_Relations/Agendas.htm (see "Strategies Update2")

The Subcommittee determined that the following recommendations can be excluded from continuing action because they have been achieved to the extent possible.

Recommendation #1 - Solicitation Ordinance

Recommendation #2 - Intergovernmental Cooperation to Curb Negative Behavior

Recommendation #4 - Recovery Zone for Milpas Area

Recommendation #6 - Increase in shelter year round shelter beds for vulnerable populations

Recommendation #8 - Increase in Detox Beds

As outlined above, there have been some excellent outcomes thus far and good efforts have been made on all of the recommended strategies. However, the Subcommittee determined that on-going reporting and/or work needs to continue on the following:

- Recommendation #3 - Continue to utilize Police Department deployment strategies to best meet the immediate demand of the Community
- Recommendation #5 - Continue collaboration between outreach, police and Common Ground. Combine and compare data to track outcomes (Are the most vulnerable being housed? Are the numbers of homeless decreasing?)
- Recommendation #7 - Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC) continue to identify future Neighborhood Improvement Task Force projects
- Recommendation #9 – Enhance Restorative Policing Program (possible RDA funding) and continue Restorative Court (report on case numbers, outcomes & coordination with housing)
- Recommendation #10 - Continue working with police, outreach and service providers to reconnect homeless with their families
- Recommendation #11 - Alternate Giving Campaign results and decision on Phase 2
- Recommendation #12 – Continue seeking opportunities for permanent supportive affordable housing projects

In addition to the discussion of food distribution, the following topics were added to the list of discussion items for the subcommittee:

- Homeless Coordinator Position
- Database
- Jail Discharge planning and coordination
- Gap between 6:30 a.m. when Rescue Mission releases those it housed over-night and 8:30 a.m. when Casa Esperanza Day Center opens

In general discussion, it was mentioned again that as a community we are ‘program rich and coordination poor’. There may be a need for one centralized unit or person to coordinate and take “ownership” of all activities related to homelessness. An intergovernmental web-based database could be useful.

3. CITY FUNDING FOR HOMELESS PROGRAMS – Sue Gray

A list of City of Santa Barbara Operating Funding for Homeless Efforts was presented which included \$83,000 for Prevention; \$882,948 for Intervention; \$669,000 for Enforcement; and \$318,000 for Coordination (total of \$1,952,948). These amounts do not include expenditures for one-time capital grants or amounts that were contributed toward the purchase and/or construction of affordable housing properties.

4. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff was asked to set up the next meeting in late May and provide the following information: homeless coordinator positions in other jurisdictions (Santa Monica and Ventura); homeless databases currently in use; and Common Ground Vulnerability survey results.

Policy recommendations to Council will be considered at the next meeting.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT – No public comment

6. NEXT MEETING – TBD

7. ADJOURNED AT 3:45 p.m.